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SCHOOL

AND

FINANCIAL REPORTS

OF

BENNINGTON, N. H.

RENDERED MARCH 1, 1872.

MANCHESTER:

JOHN B. CLARKE'S MIRROR STEAM JOB PRESS.
1872.

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SCHOOL REPORT.

Another year has passed, and it becomes my duty, according to the laws of the State, to make an annual report to the town of the condition of our public schools. And here let no one say that the old reports would answer with simply altering a few facts and figures in the tabular view. Although we may be compelled to discuss some of the facts and repeat some of the criticisms of former reports, yet every one who closely inspects our schools will see a marked difference from year to year. A change of prudential committees usually brings a change of teachers; and with a change of teachers, a change in the management and efficiency of the school.

If the teachers are active and enthusiastic, the scholars will partake of their inspiration. If they are dull and indolent, the scholars will be listless and sluggish. The teacher's office is no sinecure, but it demands work, work, work. From the commencement to the end of the term, nothing but hard, persistent work is to be done. No one should engage in teaching who thinks it an easy matter, and none should be employed who teaches simply for pay, or as a stepping-stone to some other employment. There are many teachers whose literary acquirements are of the first order, but who cannot or do not shake off that lethargy of idleness, and rouse themselves to that vigorous effort which would give themselves honorable reputation in the calling they have chosen for a profession.

So, too, if parental care ceases when the scholars enter the school room, and they are not watched over and questioned in regard to their studies, is it any wonder that they

do not make the progress that they ought? Nothing encourages children more than to have parents and friends take an interest in their literary labors.

Again, teachers frequently fail of accomplishing the desired object by undervaluing the capacity of their pupils. Children delight in exercising the *mind* as well as the body; and it is the observant and experienced teacher alone that brings into requisition the mental powers and trains them to their proper end.

One great fault of our teachers and of our text-books is, they THINK too much for the scholars, instead of the scholars' thinking for themselves. And I question seriously whether the scholars become more learned, more thinking, and better prepared for the duties of life, under the present multiplicity of text-books in reading, arithmetic, grammar, geography, &c., than under the old system of fewer books and more mental training.

A brief notice of the new school-house erected the past summer in District No. 1 may not be inappropriate at this time. The cost of the land, grading, and school-rooms with the furniture included, amounts to the sum of \$3,800; a large outlay considering the amount of wealth in the district, if reckoned in dollars and cents; but we believe no intelligent person who has visited the schools the past winter will begrudge the amount of his or her tax in the increased amount of comfort and convenience afforded to the teachers and scholars. And it is a fact worthy of notice that after a term of eleven weeks, with eighty scholars in both departments, we failed to discover a single scratch upon the desks, or a single mark upon the walls of the school-room.

Then let every parent make frequent visits to these school-rooms, and encourage both teachers and pupils in well-doing, and make our schools what they should be, the idol and the pride of every citizen.

In making out this part of the report, we have considered the number of the districts as in former reports.

DISTRICT NO. ONE.

Prudential Committee, JOHN A. WHITEMORE.

Teacher, JENNIE M. CARR. This was the first experience of a young teacher, who endeavored to do her duty. There was, perhaps, too much show of government and too little real government for the good of the school. With a little more experience, and a smaller school for a few terms, Miss Carr may become a first class teacher. The scholars made commendable progress, however, in all the branches of study pursued.

DISTRICT NO. TWO.

Prudential Committee, C. J. KIMBALL.

Teacher, ROSABELLE S. DAVIS. It has seldom been our province to visit a school where the relation between teacher and taught seemed to be so pleasant and satisfactory as this. Good order without severity was maintained throughout the term. We do not think any one acquainted with the school will question its superior excellence.

A term of six weeks in the autumn by the same teacher was attended with like happy results. No day was passed by the scholars under her guidance without marked improvement, and the verdict of all that attended the closing exercises on examination day was, "Well done."

DISTRICT NO. THREE.

Prudential Committee, LEVI COLBY.

Teacher, first term, MARY G. COMSTOCK. A very pleasant and successful term, with only two scholars belonging to the district. The number was increased to seven by an addition from No. 5 and two from Deering. The school was orderly, and the progress satisfactory.

Winter term, LAURA F. GERRY, teacher. This teacher evidently exerted herself to instruct her pupils to the best advantage. We found a great improvement in the order and management of the school from last winter. In our visits the school appeared well, and in some respects very well. At the examination, it appeared that the scholars had received an equivalent for the school money expended.

DISTRICT NO. FOUR.

Prudential Committee, W. P. JENKINS.

Teacher, LILLA C. HARDY. This district is united with No. 3 in Greenfield. Had but one term of school, of 14 weeks, taught by Miss Lilla C. Hardy, a teacher of some experience, whose kind words and pleasant smile make sunshine in the school-room. Laboring with energy and devotion success is certain, and the examination at the close was satisfactory in every respect.

DISTRICT NO. FIVE. ONE TERM.

Prudential Committee, DANIEL BARTLETT.

Teacher, MARY G. COMSTOCK. This is quite a backward school, and the teacher tried hard to make it less so, and with commendable success. The scholars appeared to have been faithful to their privileges. The school-house was tastefully decorated with evergreen on the day of examination, showing the good taste of teacher and scholars in making their school-room pleasant and attractive.

DISTRICT NO. ONE. WINTER TERM.

Prudential Committee, C. J. KIMBALL, J. A. WHITTEMORE.

Primary department, ROSABELLE S. DAVIS, teacher. The task imposed on this teacher was a difficult one. To properly care for the little bodies, and feed the little minds, and keep cheerful the loving little hearts, is a work that might well employ an angel's hand. It is a task to which man can never aspire, and for which but few women are well qualified. The qualifications of a successful primary teacher Miss Davis possessed in an eminent degree, and in every respect her school was a model of neatness, order, and all the requisites that go to make up a successful school. There was at all times a kind feeling manifested between teacher and pupils. On the day of examination one of her scholars presented her with a splendid Bible, the gift of the school children, and in the few and simple words conveyed to the teacher more of the children's heartfelt gratitude than could have been done by the most studied discourse.

Grammar School department, Teacher, KATE A. DUNCAN. This school had a teacher whose literary attainments were of the first order. Some of the scholars were at that period in life when the submission of the child passes into the self-assertion of the boy or girl without being perfected by self-respect; and consequently there was not that cordiality of feeling existing between teacher and scholar that ought to have been. Fair progress, however, was made in all branches pursued—a better understanding of the ground previously passed over, than an advance into new fields of labor.

The teachers of the several districts make the following reports in their registers:

DISTRICT NO. ONE. FIRST TERM.

Moral Department—Above mediocrity, 17; ordinary, 15; below, 1.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 6; ordinary, 26; below, 1.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 7; ordinary, 25; below, 1.

On the roll of honor: Nettie Nichols, Inez L. Shepley, Kate B. Cooper, Gracie Wilson, Freddie Wilson.

DISTRICT NO. TWO. FIRST TERM.

Moral Department—Above mediocrity, 25; ordinary, 10; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 25; ordinary, 10; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 19; ordinary, 16; below, 0.

Roll of honor: Lila A. Flagg, Leona Taylor, Carrie L. Whitney, Henry A. George, Eddie E. George, Willie B. Whitney, Herbert H. Wilson.

SECOND TERM.

Moral department—Above mediocrity, 35; ordinary, 7; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 27; ordinary, 15; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 27; ordinary, 15; below, 0.

Roll of honor: Maria A. Dodge, Lenora S. Dodge, Josie S. Kimball, Anna Parow, Ada M. Taylor, Carrie L. Whitney, Mary E. Wilson, G. Albert Fleming, Henry A. George, Fred Gray, Frank A. Taylor, George W. Wilson, Henry W. Wilson.

DISTRICT NO. THREE. FIRST TERM.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 4; ordinary, 1; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 2; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 2; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

Roll of honor: Mary Bullard.

SECOND TERM.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 1; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 1; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 1; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

DISTRICT NO. FOUR.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 3; ordinary, 4; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 4; ordinary, 3; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 2; ordinary, 4; below, 1.

Roll of honor: Willie P. Jenkins.

DISTRICT NO. FIVE.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 5; ordinary, 2; below, 1.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 4; ordinary, 3; below, 1.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 4; ordinary, 4; below, 1.

DISTRICT NO. ONE. PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 31; ordinary, 17; below, 0.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 37; ordinary, 11; below, 0.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 34; ordinary, 14; below, 0.

Roll of honor: Nancy S. Dickey, Lila A. Flagg, Carrie E. George, Mary Wilson, Henry A. George, Eddie E. George, Eddie H. Phelps, Henry W. Wilson, and George W. Wilson.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

Moral deportment—Above mediocrity, 22; ordinary, 13; below, 1.

Habits of study—Above mediocrity, 25; ordinary, 9; below, 4.

Rank as a scholar—Above mediocrity, 22; ordinary, 11; below, 3.

We shall close this report by expressing our thanks to all, parents, teachers, and scholars, for the uniform kindness and respect shown to us while visiting their respective schools.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN H. FLEMING,
Superintending School Committee.

TABULAR VIEW
OF THE
Summer and Winter Schools

IN THE
TOWN OF BENNINGTON,
1871-72.

Districts.	Terms.	NAMES OF TEACHERS.																				TOWN OF BENNINGTON, 1871-72.										OF THE Summer and Winter Schools IN THE		TABULAR VIEW	

*Primary Department.

†Grammar School Dept.

Text Books USED IN THE SCHOOLS IN BENNINGTON.—Reading: Bible, Hillard's series. Spelling: Progressive speller. Arithmetic: Colburn's and Greenleaf's series. Geography: Cornell's series. Grammar: Brown's First Lines, and Kells'. History: Quackenbos'. Physiology: Cutter's. Geometry: Robinson's and Loomis'. Writing: Payson, Dunton & Scribner's System.

AUDITORS' REPORT

FROM MARCH 1, 1871 TO MARCH 1, 1872.

The Treasurer and Selectmen are charged by the Auditors with the following sums;

To amount of tax list committed to Hartwell Lakin.....		\$5,089 08
Balance in the treasury March 1, 1871...		569 23
Uncollected taxes in 1863.....	60 95	
“ “ “ 1866.....	33 93	
“ “ “ 1867.....	58 52	
“ “ “ 1868	119 78	
“ “ “ 1870	23 26	
		<hr/> \$296 44

Cash of Sarah West.....	\$180 00	
“ “ George E. Whitney	1,700 00	
“ “ Mrs. C. S. A. Hodgkins	150 00	
“ “ C. M. Bromley	100 00	
“ “ Mary Bell	100 00	
“ “ Alfred Rodgers.....	500 00	
“ “ Milton McCoy	400 00	
“ “ Susan M. Pitchee.....	17 42	
“ “ Alfred Rodgers.....	350 00	
“ “ Emerson Favor.....	200 00	
“ “ Kendall Gray	170 00	
“ “ C. M. Bromley	70 00	
“ “ State Savings Bank	277 89	
“ “ “ Railroad.....	58 32	
“ “ “ Literary Fund.....	68 40	
“ “ Lydia Brown.....	100 00	
“ “ Caroline E. Bell	15	
“ “ Sylvanus Hutchins	200 00	
“ “ Abby M. Whittemore.....	300 00	
“ “ Dorcas Flagg	925 00	
“ “ Rachel Wilson.....	31 06	
“ “ Wm. L. Taylor.....	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$5,908 24

Cash on tax list 1870 in March, 1871.....		70 00
Interest on taxes to March 1, 1871.....		31 16
Cash of Antrim for timber		2 84
Cash on tax list 1870	\$21 34	
“ “ “ 1867.....	10 88	
“ “ “ 1868.....	40 17	
	<hr/>	72 39
		<hr/>
		\$12,039 38

The Auditors credit the Treasurer with paying the following sums :

By paying State tax.....	\$930 00	
“ County tax.....	293 33	
Non-resident receipts	87 48	
	<hr/>	\$1,310 81

School Orders.

District No. 1, John A. Whittemore.....	\$264 14	
“ “ 2, C. J. Kimball.....	352 74	
“ “ 3, Levi Colby.....	105 28	
“ “ 4, Wm. P. Jenkins.....	50 38	
“ “ 5, Daniel Bartlett.....	38 75	
	<hr/>	\$811 29
Cash paid District No. 1, Taxes.....		\$75 00

Expense of Town Paupers.

Paid Mrs. Nichols for boarding Mrs. Page.	\$34 86	
Mrs. Dodge for boarding George Symonds..	40 10	
Dr. Parson, G. Symonds	6 75	
Selectmen of Sutton, boarding Mrs. Thos. Barker	114 00	
Dr. Smiley, Mrs. Barker	60 00	
H. Lakin, ex. to Sutton.....	5 00	
John H. Flemming to Manchester, George Symonds.....	5 00	
M. M. George, boarding Sarah Wilson to March 1.....	104 00	
John Muzzy, transient pauper, twice.....	2 75	
Mrs. Nichols, b'ding Mrs. Page to Mar. 1,	50 57	
Dr. Parsons, for Town of Deering for Mrs. Carpenter, 1865, for medicine and attendance.....	29 00	
	<hr/>	\$452 03

Repairing Roads and Bridges in addition to Highway Tax.

Paid Francis M. Shattuck for work and lumber for Baldwin's Bridge	\$58 00	
Wm. G. Roach for work and lumber for Cochran Bridge	82 05	
John W. Flagg for work, stone, and spikes..	9 58	
Nathan Whitney, plank	49 33	
G. W. Burns, plank	33 54	
Geo. E. Colby, work	9 12	
Emily Whittemore, gravel	6 00	
Moses H. Newton, work	8 10	
John F. Dodge, work	4 60	
Owen A. Willey, lumber	1 75	
Wesley Wilson, work on bridge	2 50	
		<hr/> \$264 57

Breaking Roads.

Levi Colby, 1870	6 30	
Isaiah W. Sweetser	1 00	
David P. Roach	30	
Levi Colby, 1872	2 10	
Wesley Wilson	1 95	
		<hr/> \$11 65

Miscellaneous Town Expenses.

Levi Colby, for sheep killed by dogs	2 00	
Horace Rodgers, for sheep	4 00	
John D. Cooper, " "	6 00	
Farnum & Scott, reports	18 00	
Morrill & Silsby, bill	7 00	
F. W. Whitney, ringing bell	8 00	
Wm. L. Taylor, snowing bridge	2 00	
M. D. Poor, lumber	1 68	
John Flagg, "	4 92	
G. C. Underwood, for R. B. Hatch, ins.,..	40 00	
W. S. Carkin, lumber	23 79	
Lewis Martin, tapping W. George's boots,	80	
Wm. Dirrah, drawing lumber,	1 25	
Amos Whittemore, insurance	7 50	
A. W. Gray, engine company	25 00	
Luke Thompson, stoves	22 73	
M. M. George, ringing bell	8 00	
H. J. Burt, engine men	63 25	
F. M. Hill, hearse	75	
Asa Holt, repairing hearse	1 50	
		<hr/> \$248 17

Paid for Town Hall..... \$2,456 27

Paid Notes and Interest.

	<i>Principal.</i>	<i>Interest.</i>
John D. Butler	\$405 70	16 91
G. H. Stewart.....	800 00	15 20
Mrs. C. S. A. Hodgkins.....		10 36
John D. Butler.....	69 71	7 66
Harriet Smiley	200 00	
Eliza Wilson.....		37 35
Wm. L. Taylor.....	100 00	8 06
A. Whittemore, Congl. Society.....		12 00
Lewis A. Knight.....	300 00	18 00
Maria Taylor		13 78
Geo. E. Whitney	1,700 00	43 41
Abram Burt.....		12 00
Alfred Rodgers.....	50 00	
Persis Wilson	200 00	17 66
Isaiah W. Sweetser	313 97	18 26
David Rodgers		9 00
John D. Butler	7 24	111 21
Clara Bullard	435 00	39 39
William Taylor.....		54 15
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,581 62	444 40

Taxes Abated by Selectmen.

1863—Benja. Burt	\$10 74
S. A. Walker.....	2 90
Chas. Symonds	2 40
Andrew W. Stevens.....	2 40
James G. Patten.....	2 40
Daniel Decatur	2 40
Stage Co.....	2 50
B. Fletcher	5 16
Chas. Gillis.....	2 40
John Bell.....	2 40
1870—N. E. Dickey.....	2 92
John J. Roach.....	3 00
James Shedd.....	3 00
Luther Newton.....	1 00
Benja. Bullard.....	3 34
1867—Daniel Decatur.....	4 80
Daniel Brown.....	4 80
Luther Newton.....	80
Adams F. Dickey	4 80

1868—James Gould.....	3 63	
Benja. Bullard.....	3 79	
James Burton.....	2 63	
1871—E. W. Shepley.....	3 94	
John D. Cooper.....	3 75	
George Thompson.....	4 25	
Amos W. Eaton.....	10 00	
Nelson Muzzy.....	3 94	
1870—Lucretia Russell.....	10 00	
		<hr/>
		\$110 09

Uncollected Taxes.

1863—H. H. Duncklee.....	25 25	
1866—Alfred Gray.....	33 93	
1867— “ “.....	43 32	
1868— “ “.....	109 73	
1871—H. Lakin.....	34 02	
		<hr/>
		\$246 25

Paid Town Officers.

1st Selectman, Wesley Wilson.....	\$50 00	
2d “ John H. Fleming.....	31 00	
3d “ Wm. P. Burt.....	31 00	
John H. Fleming, S. School Committee...	15 00	
C. F. Peavey, Town Clerk.....	15 00	
H. Lakin, Treasurer.....	30 00	
H. Lakin, Collector.....	29 00	
John D. Butler, Auditor.....	3 00	
C. P. Whittemore, Auditor.....	6 00	
		<hr/>
		\$210 00

Town Liabilities March 1, 1872.

June 26, 1869, Mrs. Bixby.....	\$211 18	
April 12, 1869, James Hadley.....	599 48	
Nov. 11, 1867, Wm. Eaton.....	449 36	
Nov. 28, 1868, Wm. Eaton.....	300 71	
May 13, 1868, Nancy Forsaith.....	631 74	
Feb. 19, 1870, John D. Butler.....	846 42	
Jan. 8, 1869, Mrs. S. Abbott.....	60 04	
April 13, 1870, Charles Gray.....	111 61	
Nov. 4, 1868, David Rodgers.....	150 00	
Feb. 26, 1870, Wesley Wilson.....	112 44	
Feb. 19, 1872, Isaac Proctor.....	60 58	
Mar. 20, 1871, Sarah West.....	127 22	
Feb. 11, 1871, Sarah West.....	190 44	

Aug. 30, 1871, Abram Burt.	207	00
Sept. 21, 1871, Kendall Gray.....	174	42
Jan. 2, 1871, John W. Flagg	1,069	66
June 5, 1871, C. S. A. Hodgkins	234	97
June 22, 1871, Eliza Wilson.....	754	60
July 24, 1871, C. M. Bromley	103	61
July 29, 1871, Mary Bell	104	03
July 31, 1871, Alfred Rodgers	517	50
Aug. 18, 1871, Milton McCoy	412	80
Aug. 24, 1871, Susan Pitcher.....	134	03
Sept. 18, 1871, Emerson Favor.....	205	40
Sept. 19, 1871, S. Maria Taylor.....	314	05
Nov. 13, 1871, Ed. T. Adams.....	431	90
Nov. 27, 1871, C. M. Bromley	71	08
Aug. 28, 1871, Alfred Rodgers.....	310	00
Jan. 16, 1872, Lydia Brown	100	75
Feb. 23, 1871, Harriet Smiley	255	40
Jan. 25, 1871, Frank G. Bartlett.....	3	40
Jan. 20, 1872, Caroline E. Bell	261	82
Jan. 29, 1872, Sylvanus Hutchinson.....	201	03
Jan. 29, 1872, Abby M. Whittemore.....	301	55
Feb. 10, 1872, Dorcas P. Flagg.....	928	08
Feb. 21, 1872, Rachel Wilson.....	150	22
Feb. 23, 1872, John D. Butler	1,000	00
Feb. 26, 1872, Wm. L. Taylor.....	450	00
April 18, 1868, Lydia Pollard.....	501	80
May 4, 1868, Lydia Pollard.....	374	98
Nov. 11, 1870, Lydia Pollard	101	92
Oct. 6, 1869, Mary E. Dodge	345	22
Feb. 3, 1867, A. Whittemore, Cong. Soc'y	206	80
Oct. 30, 1869, Betsey Burt.	200	56
April, 1870, Mary C. Eaton	33	50
Aug. 22, 1871, Wm. B Walker	180	51
	—	\$14,493 81
Taxes uncollected	246	25
Balance in treasury.....	817	23
	—	\$1,063 48
Total indebtedness of Town.....	\$13,430	33

1461 03

63 1460

Recapitulation.

The Treasurer and Selectmen,

	<i>Dr.</i>	
To taxes, money, &c.		\$12,039 38
	<i>Cr.</i>	
By paying State and County tax,	\$1223	33
Non-resident tax receipt.....	87	48
School orders	811	29
District No. 1 taxes.....	75	00
Town paupers.....	452	03
Highway and bridges.....	264	57
Breaking roads	11	65
Miscellaneous expenses	248	17
Notes and interest.....	5026	02
Town Hall.....	2456	27
Abatement on taxes.....	100	09
Taxes uncollected.	246	25
Town officers	210	00
Balance in Treasury.....	817	23
	—————	\$12,039 38

We have examined the above report, and find it accurately cast and properly vouched.

C. P. WHITTEMORE, } *Auditors.*
 JOHN D. BUTLER, }

REPORT OF THE SEXTON OF THE TOWN OF BENNINGTON FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 20, 1872.

NAMES.	AGE.	DIED.	DISEASE.	PLACE OF INTERMENT.
*Rispah B. Huntington	78 yrs 4 mo 13 ds	July 29...	Heart disease.....	Antrim.
Mrs. Betsey Burt....	50	" 31...	Consumption.....	Bennington.
" Eliza Roach.....	62 5	Aug. 19...	Dropsy	Antrim.
" Angeline Taylor	43 1 16	" 20...	Typhoid Fever.....	Bennington.
† Mrs. Martha Martin.	28 2 9	" 28...	Consumption	Kempville, Ontario.
" Sarah J. George.	34	Sept. 5... 1872	"	Greenfield.
*Miss Ella Bullard....	18 4 26	Jan. 17...	Heart disease.....	Antrim.
Mrs. Mary Butler....	58	" 31...	"	Bennington.

Average age, 46 years, 6 months and 23 days.

*Mrs. Huntington and Miss Bullard were on a visit to Antrim and died there.

† Mrs. Martin died at Kempville, Ontario.

Respectfully submitted,

F. M. HILLS, SEXTON.



